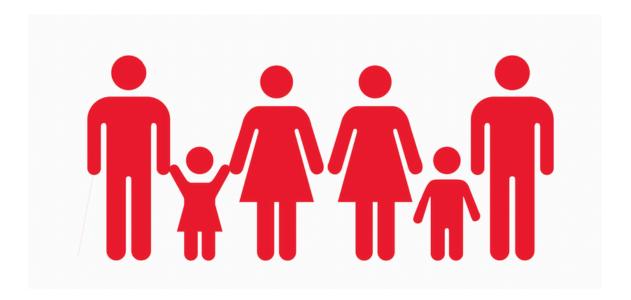


SDG 1: NO POVERTY



2023-2024

BAUATAGLANCE

Since its foundation in 1998, the vision of BAU has been to be a global university known for its contribution to scientific, technological, and cultural knowledge through innovative education models and research approaches that reflect international standards as well as service to society. Currently, BAU Global Network comprises of 6 universities (Istanbul, Washington D.C., Berlin, Cyprus, Batumi, Plymouth), 5 liaison offices (BAU Global Azerbaijan Jordan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan) and 5 language schools.

As one of the leading universities in Türkiye, BAU aims primarily to improve the living standards of the local and global society by integrating the sustainable development goals into its corporate processes and culture, educational programs, academic research practices and stakeholder collaborations. BAU with its staff members, students and alumni is a big academic community who are raised as good global citizens committed to each x and the world around them and always act with the utmost sense of ethics and social responsibility.

BAU WITH NUMBERS

- 7 campuses in Istanbul
- 10 faculties, 1 conservatory, 2 vocational schools
- 54 BA programs, 187 MA programs, 30 PhD. programs
- 28 research and application centers
- 149 labs, workshops/studios, incubation centers
- 229 Erasmus partner universities, 96 world exchange partners
- 854 full-time faculty members, 449 administrative staff members
- 19.287 undergraduate students, 3.500 graduate students, 478 doctora degree
- students
- 81 student clubs
- 238 externally funded projects between 2023-2024
- 410 industry partnerships & projects between 2023-2024

BAU IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

BAU participates in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings since 2019. According to the current rankings, BAU belongs to the 801-1000 band in the World University Rankings, 59th in the Impact Rankings and the 173th in the Young University Rankings 2024. Also, BAU is ranked among the top 5 universities in Türkiye.

The university continuously increases its standing in categories related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As of 2025, BAU holds the following standings in the THE Impact Rankings;

- 7 th in Quality Education
- 50 th in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 2nd in Gender Equality
- Ranks between 101-200 in Reducing Inequalities
- Ranks between 201-300 in Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Ranks between 401-600 in Sustainable Cities and Communities

The University takes the above-mentioned rankings as evaluation criteria for progress regarding its adherence and contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to report its advancement in the rankings on a yearly basis.

Institutional Commitment to Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction

Bahçeşehir University (BAU), operating within the framework of the Higher Education Law No. 2547, upholds the principle that access to quality education is a fundamental human right and a key driver of social mobility and poverty reduction. The University's institutional strategy reflects a deep commitment to ensuring that no student is deprived of educational opportunity due to economic hardship. In line with its founding mission—"to provide equal opportunity in education"—BAU has implemented a comprehensive financial aid and inclusion framework that strengthens social equity and promotes economic resilience through education.

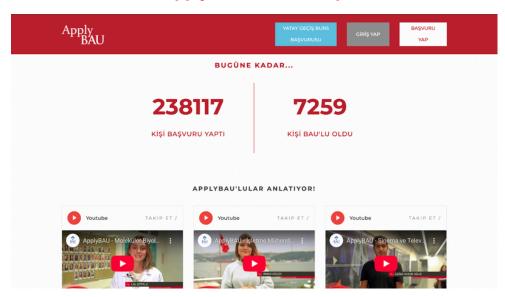
At the core of this framework is ApplyBAU, Türkiye's first and most innovative talent-based university admission and scholarship model, launched in 2013. By evaluating applicants according to their personal skills, creativity, and potential rather than standardized test results, ApplyBAU ensures that capable students from all socioeconomic backgrounds can access higher education. Complementing this initiative, BAU's Scholarship and Financial Support System provides merit-based, need-based, and crisis-related scholarships to students at all levels, including those affected by natural disasters, economic inequality, or displacement. Through these programs, the University actively combats the financial barriers that perpetuate cycles of poverty, transforming education into a tool for empowerment and social advancement.

Further reinforcing its inclusive education model, BAU offers on-campus assistantship opportunities that enable students to work part-time within university departments while continuing their studies. This initiative promotes financial independence, practical experience, and professional readiness, particularly for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. By integrating learning with earning, the program provides a sustainable mechanism for supporting both education and economic empowerment.

In addition to financial assistance, Bahçeşehir University ensures that all students have equitable access to health, counseling, and digital services through its extensive network of free institutional resources. The Medico-Social Directorate provides medical care and emergency ambulance services, while the Psychological Counseling Center (PDRM) offers confidential mental health support free of charge. The University also provides campus-wide free high-speed internet access (15 Gbps) and open access to advanced research laboratories, enabling students to participate in innovation and academic excellence without financial constraints. These resources exemplify the University's holistic approach to student well-being, inclusion, and academic success.

By integrating education, financial support, employment, and well-being services, Bahçeşehir University sustains a comprehensive model of poverty alleviation through higher education. This institutional framework aligns directly with the objectives of SDG 1 (No Poverty) by reducing economic barriers and fostering opportunity, while simultaneously advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) through inclusive, equitable, and socially responsible practices.

ApplyBAU Scholarship



The ApplyBAU program, launched by Bahçeşehir University in 2013, represents Turkey's first and most innovative university admission and scholarship model. Rather than relying solely on exam-based evaluations, this model prioritizes students' individual talents, interests, and aspirations—creating an inclusive and holistic approach to higher education access. Through ApplyBAU, prospective students can apply for admission and scholarship opportunities based on their personal skills, creative projects, and social responsibility initiatives, rather than standardized test performance.

By allowing applicants to present autobiographies, project portfolios, and personal achievements, the system provides opportunities for students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to access higher education. Through this approach, Bahçeşehir University enhances equal access to educational opportunities and supports young people facing economic barriers to higher learning. Each application is carefully evaluated by faculty committees, which may include interviews or project-based assessments to better understand students' potential beyond academic grades.

In the 2022–2023 academic year, a total of 1,281 students received ApplyBAU scholarships, with an average scholarship rate of 40%. Among these students, 324 were awarded scholarships covering 50% or more of tuition fees, while 12 students were granted full (100%) scholarships. The total value of financial support provided through ApplyBAU that year reached \$258,262,314.

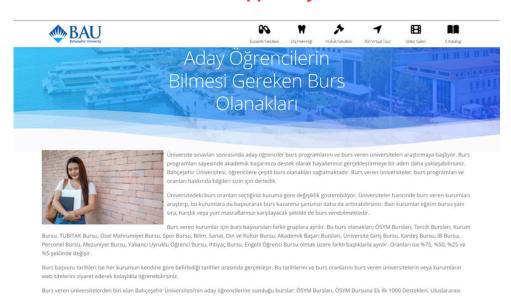
In the following 2023–2024 academic year, 998 students were awarded ApplyBAU scholarships, with an average scholarship rate of 37%. Of these, 199 students received scholarships covering 50% or more, and 13 students enrolled with full scholarships, amounting to a total of $$\pm 492,730,411$ in financial assistance. These figures demonstrate Bahçeşehir University's strong and sustained investment in ensuring that economic barriers do not hinder access to quality education.$

Furthermore, the ApplyBAU selection criteria explicitly reject all forms of discrimination, ensuring a transparent and equitable evaluation process. By recognizing students' diverse strengths and providing scholarships independent of economic or social constraints, Bahçeşehir University empowers individuals to overcome poverty-related barriers through education. The program also plays a crucial role in promoting equal opportunities for women, particularly in STEM fields where they are underrepresented, thereby contributing to a more inclusive academic environment.

Since its establishment, the ApplyBAU model has become a cornerstone of Bahçeşehir University's mission to identify potential, cultivate individual growth, and make quality education accessible to all. By combining financial support with talent-based admissions, the University transforms higher education into a tool for empowerment, opportunity, and social mobility. This initiative also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by expanding equitable access to education and supporting social mobility through inclusive scholarship opportunities.

https://applybau.com/

Ensuring Equal Access to Education through Comprehensive Scholarship and Financial Support Systems



Bahçeşehir University offers a comprehensive Scholarship and Financial Support System designed to ensure that no student's education is interrupted due to financial hardship. The Scholarship Unit serves as a key institutional mechanism for maintaining equitable access to higher education and addressing the financial challenges students may face throughout their academic journey. Students who encounter economic difficulties during their studies are invited to submit support requests, which are reviewed by the Scholarship and Finance Commissions in accordance with the University's Scholarship and Support Directive. Through this structure, Bahçeşehir University upholds its commitment to expanding financial inclusion and reducing the economic barriers that often limit access to higher education opportunities.

A wide variety of scholarships are available, ranging from merit- and performance-based awards to need-based financial assistance. These include national placement exam scholarships (ÖSYM), preference and institutional scholarships, TÜBİTAK and special disadvantage scholarships, sports, science, arts, and cultural scholarships, academic excellence awards, sibling and alumni discounts, as well as scholarships for students with disabilities and international diploma holders. By diversifying scholarship categories and adjusting support rates according to student needs and achievements, Bahçeşehir University actively works to foster equal opportunities and social mobility.

<u>Support for Students Affected by Disasters and Financial Hardship</u>

Bahçeşehir University recognizes the profound impact that natural disasters and unexpected financial difficulties can have on students' educational journeys. Following the 2023 earthquake, the University provided scholarships, financial aid, and payment deferral opportunities to 221 students, with a total value of $$\pm$12,623,428.83$. In the same year, 19 students who experienced family loss or severe financial distress received $$\pm$1,748,708.69$ in additional support.

During the 2023–2024 academic year, further assistance was extended to 65 students—including those continuing to face earthquake-related challenges—amounting to ₺5,502,956 in total. Moreover, in line with its humanitarian values, the Scholarship Commission approved full scholarships for 20 students affected by the 2023 Gaza attacks, demonstrating the University's global awareness and compassion. Through these targeted support mechanisms, Bahçeşehir University ensures educational continuity for disadvantaged students and reinforces social resilience in the face of crisis.

Student Loan and Credit Support

To promote educational continuity and reduce the risk of dropouts due to financial hardship, Bahçeşehir University offers repayable student loans that help students manage tuition costs during their studies. As of the 2023–2024 academic year, the University allocated \$6,946,264.97 in total to 48 students, allowing them to pursue their degrees without interruption. This model not only removes short-term financial barriers but also empowers students to complete their education and enter the workforce with confidence, reflecting the University's sustainable approach to inclusive education financing.

Support for Students with Disabilities and Inclusive Infrastructure

Through its Center for Students with Disabilities and inclusive campus infrastructure projects, Bahçeşehir University ensures full participation in academic and social life for all students. Physical accessibility improvements, adaptive technologies, and tailored academic support systems allow students with disabilities to engage in university life equally and independently. These measures embody the University's dedication to fostering an inclusive environment where every individual, regardless of physical ability, has the opportunity to thrive academically and socially.

<u>Support for Athletes and Cultural Development</u>

In alignment with its mission to nurture well-rounded individuals, Bahçeşehir University allocates significant resources to sports and cultural development programs. In 2023–2024, the University dedicated \$1,650,000 to sports scholarships and national athlete support programs, enabling talented students to balance their athletic and academic careers effectively. By promoting holistic development, the University contributes to personal growth, teamwork, and community engagement—key drivers of social inclusion and empowerment.

Scholarships and Educational Opportunities for University Staff

Bahçeşehir University also invests in the education and career development of its employees. During the 2023–2024 academic year, 90 administrative staff members pursued fully funded master's or doctoral studies, supported through the University's employee scholarship scheme. Additionally, the children of Bahçeşehir University staff receive a 50% tuition discount across Bahçeşehir Uğur Education Institutions, including preschools, primary, secondary, and high schools. These initiatives reinforce lifelong learning and promote equal access to quality education within the institutional community itself.

Through these extensive financial and social support mechanisms, Bahçeşehir University demonstrates its unwavering dedication to equitable education, social justice, and student well-being. Each program—whether for disaster-affected individuals, student-athletes, staff, or students with disabilities—represents a step toward building an inclusive academic environment where education remains a right, not a privilege.

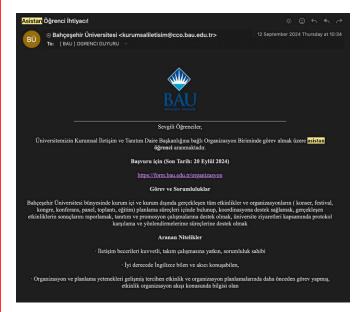
This initiative also contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by addressing economic and social barriers, fostering inclusion, and enabling all students to access, continue, and succeed in higher education.

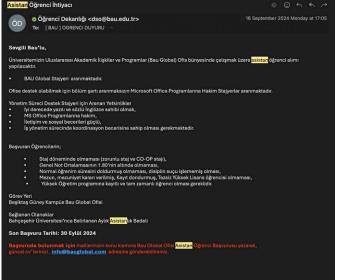
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Empowering Students through On-Campus Assistantship Opportunities





Bahçeşehir University provides valuable on-campus assistantship opportunities that enable undergraduate students to gain professional experience while receiving financial support. These positions are regularly announced through university-wide emails, ensuring equal access for all eligible students. Selected assistants are placed in various academic and administrative departments according to institutional needs, where they contribute to the daily operations and ongoing projects of the University.

By offering paid part-time positions of up to 60 hours per month, Bahçeşehir University empowers its students to build financial independence and professional readiness while continuing their education. The compensation is determined by the University's guidelines and adjusted according to the total working hours. This initiative not only supports students facing economic constraints but also provides a structured environment for developing workplace competencies such as communication, organization, and teamwork.

Each student's schedule is arranged in harmony with their academic timetable, ensuring that participation in the assistantship program does not interfere with coursework or exams. Through this approach, the University promotes economic inclusion and social empowerment by helping students cover their educational expenses and reduce the financial burdens that may limit their learning experience.

Furthermore, these assistantship roles foster a sense of belonging and institutional engagement by allowing students to actively contribute to their university community. By combining educational opportunity with financial support, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its mission to create equitable pathways for students to thrive both academically and economically.

This initiative also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by integrating learning with earning opportunities and strengthening students' transition from education to employment.

CO-OP Internship Opportunities





Bahçeşehir University's CO-OP Education Model, launched in 2008, bridges higher education with the professional world by placing students directly in partner institutions for extended internship experiences. Coordinated by the CO-OP & Career Center, the program provides a structured pathway for students—particularly those in their third and fourth years—to gain hands-on experience in real business environments while continuing their academic studies. Through its strong network of partner companies, both national and international, the Center regularly sends internship announcements via email, ensuring that all students have equal access to available opportunities.

By integrating work experience into the curriculum, Bahçeşehir University enables students to strengthen their professional skills and enhance their long-term employability, supporting economic empowerment through education. CO-OP students participate in internships lasting from three to nine months, depending on mutual agreement with the hosting company. Throughout this process, the University maintains close coordination with Human Resources departments, facilitating interviews, mentoring, and the official placement of students. Insurance coverage and administrative support are provided by the University, ensuring equitable and safe participation for all.

Through these internship placements, Bahçeşehir University fosters inclusive access to career opportunities, especially for students who might otherwise face barriers in entering the labor market. Continuous feedback and workplace evaluations guarantee that both students and employers benefit from meaningful, high-quality learning experiences. Even during challenging periods—such as the COVID-19 pandemic—the University adapted the model to include online and hybrid internships, allowing students to maintain professional engagement while ensuring their health and safety. Research conducted among 102 students and 76 partner firms demonstrated that both sides viewed online internships as highly productive and valuable for professional growth, leading to increased interest in hybrid work and internship models in the future.

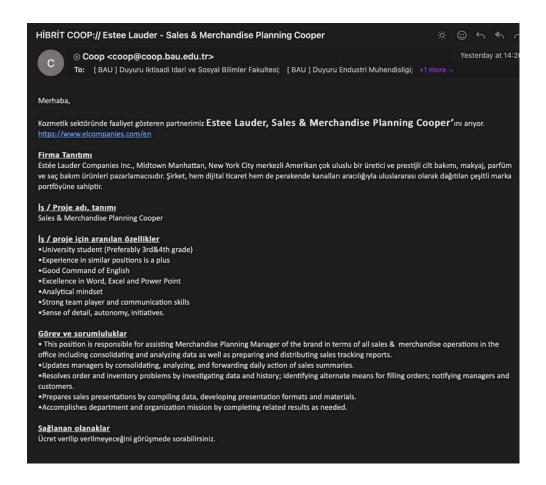
In addition to internships, the CO-OP Career Management Programs, such as Business Camp and Career Camp, offer workshops, interview simulations, entrepreneurship seminars, and networking sessions with industry professionals. These programs help students identify suitable career paths, develop essential workplace skills, and transition smoothly from university to employment.

Through its CO-OP Education Model, Bahçeşehir University directly contributes to breaking the cycle of economic disadvantage by providing students with early work experience, professional networks, and income-generating opportunities. The program reflects the University's strong commitment to inclusive development and to equipping every student with the competencies needed for sustainable employment and social mobility.

This initiative contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 1 (No Poverty) by integrating experiential learning with academic training, promoting equitable access to internships, and empowering youth to participate in productive and meaningful work.

https://coop.bau.edu.tr/partnerlerimiz/

https://coop.bau.edu.tr/



Free Of Charge Services at Bahçeşehir University

Bahçeşehir University provides a comprehensive range of free services and facilities to enhance student welfare, academic performance, and personal development. These initiatives, available to all members of the university community, reflect the institution's commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and the creation of an equitable learning environment that supports both well-being and academic excellence.

See below:

Free Medical and Emergency Services



The Medico-Social Directorate functions as an institutional health center offering free medical services to students, academic and administrative staff, retirees, and their dependents. The Directorate provides routine and emergency examinations, first aid, wound treatment, blood pressure monitoring, and general health consultations. In cases requiring further care, patients are referred to relevant healthcare institutions for specialized treatment, with laboratory and radiological analyses coordinated through the Directorate.

A free on-campus ambulance service ensures rapid response to medical emergencies, further strengthening the university's health infrastructure. The Directorate also organizes educational seminars and awareness campaigns aimed at promoting physical and mental well-being within the campus community.

https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/3508-mediko-sosyal-hizmetler-mudurlugu

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Free Psychological Counseling Services



The Psychological Counseling, Guidance and Research Center (PDRM) offers professional, confidential counseling services free of charge to Bahçeşehir University students. The Center operates in both the Beşiktaş and Kemerburgaz campuses, where qualified psychologists provide individual sessions in Turkish and English. Counseling focuses on academic, emotional, and social concerns such as stress management, adaptation to university life, family or relationship issues, and loss or trauma.

Each session typically lasts between 45 and 50 minutes, and appointments are scheduled weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly depending on individual needs. All services comply with the ethical standards of the Turkish Psychological Association, ensuring complete confidentiality and professional care.

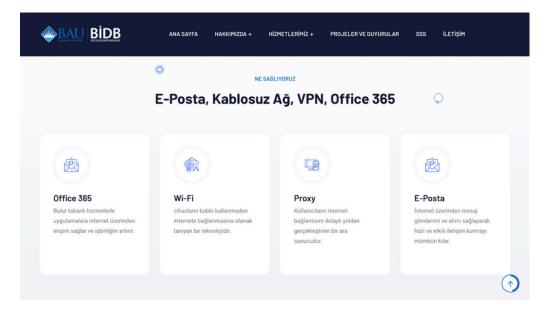
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Free High-Speed Internet Access



In order to strengthen its digital infrastructure, Bahçeşehir University has increased its campus-wide internet capacity to 15 Gbps, providing free, high-speed, and uninterrupted access to all students and staff. This enhancement enables a seamless digital experience that supports education, research, and innovation across all campuses. The University's robust connectivity framework ensures that every member of the academic community benefits from equal access to digital learning resources and global communication tools.

https://bidb.bau.edu.tr/



Free Access to Research and Innovation Laboratories



Bahçeşehir University offers free access to a wide range of advanced laboratories that support interdisciplinary research, innovation, and experiential learning. These facilities allow students to conduct scientific research, develop prototypes, and engage in technological experimentation as part of their education.

Among the key laboratories available to students are the Big Data Education and Research Center, Cyber Security Center, BAU-Stanford Robotics Laboratory, Machine Learning Research Laboratory, Quantum Technology Laboratory, Biomedical Prototype Testing Laboratory, Photonics and Nano-Optics Research Laboratory, VR and Eye-Tracking Laboratories, Maker and Robotics Laboratories (Code Camp), BUG Game Laboratory, Nutrition and Cell Culture Laboratories, and the Financial Research and Application Center (BFRC).

Through these facilities, Bahçeşehir University ensures equal access to research opportunities and encourages students to take part in cutting-edge technological and scientific advancement regardless of their financial background.

https://bau.edu.tr/content/16127-research-laboratories

https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/16975-laboratuvarlarimiz



The provision of free health, psychological, digital, and research services across Bahçeşehir University demonstrates the institution's dedication to equitable access to education and comprehensive student support. These efforts eliminate financial and social barriers, ensuring that all students can pursue their academic goals in a healthy, technologically advanced, and inclusive environment. This initiative contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by advancing universal access to essential student services and promoting equality within higher education.

BAU Activities and Initiatives Supporting SDG 1: No Poverty

Conference on Migrant Women's Labor and Pathways Toward Economic Empowerment (17-

18.10.2024)



Hosted at Bahçeşehir University Fazıl Say Conference Hall, this event explored the evolving role of migrant women's labor amid global crises and shifting class structures. With an opening keynote by Prof. Dr. Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, the conference examined how economic transformations and care economies reshape gendered and migrant labor relations, particularly in the domestic work sector.

Organized as the closing conference of the TÜBİTAK 1001 Project "Post-Pandemic Migration Experiences, Home-Work Dynamics, and Intra-Household Relations: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers", the event brought together academics, researchers, and policymakers to discuss intersectional dimensions of gender, migration, and labor precarity. Through its focus on social justice and inclusivity, the conference highlighted the importance of recognizing women's contributions to both paid and unpaid economies.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty) by highlighting the socioeconomic dimensions of women's labor and promoting equitable access to livelihoods, while also reinforcing SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through its emphasis on empowerment, fair employment, and social protection mechanisms for migrant women.

"Hear Me" Mosaic Concert – Art, Solidarity, and Support for Earthquake-Affected Women and Children (25.12.2024)



Held on 25 December 2024 and organized jointly by CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Bahçeşehir University, the "Hear Me" Mosaic Concert served as a meaningful platform to highlight the physical, psychological, and economic women, hardships faced by post-crisis particularly in disaster-affected regions. Through collective artistic music and expression, the event sought to promote gender equality, social inclusion, and solidarity in times of adversity.

All proceeds from the concert were donated to the Hatay Hayat Cooperative, a local initiative supporting women and children who lost their homes and livelihoods in the devastating February 6 earthquakes. The funds contributed directly to food aid, basic needs, and recovery efforts in Hatay, one of the regions most severely affected by the disaster. By addressing the acute poverty, hunger, and material deprivation experienced in the aftermath of the earthquakes, Bahçeşehir University demonstrated its commitment to alleviating human suffering and advancing social resilience through community-driven action.

The concert underscored how cultural and artistic initiatives can contribute to poverty reduction by mobilizing collective empathy and channeling resources toward those most in need. Through this humanitarian initiative, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its dedication to inclusive recovery, social justice, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups in crisis contexts.

This initiative contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty) by supporting post-disaster poverty alleviation and basic needs provision, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through its focus on women's empowerment and social inclusion, and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by fostering community resilience and reconstruction through solidarity-based engagement.



Forced Displacement and Health: Learning from Country Experiences to Create a Better Future (30.01.2024)



Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Medicine and BAUMUS, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University's Center for Humanitarian Health, organized an international panel titled "Forced Displacement and Health: Learning from Country Experiences to Create a Better Future." The event brought together experts and scholars to discuss the intersections of migration, health systems, and humanitarian response, highlighting best practices from around the world. By addressing the health challenges faced by displaced populations and promoting equitable access to essential healthcare services, the panel underscored the university's dedication to improving public health outcomes and supporting vulnerable communities. Through such global collaborations, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its commitment to advancing health equity, knowledge exchange, and capacity building in humanitarian contexts.



"After the Earthquake" Symposium: Understanding the Psychological Impact of Disaster (9-

10.02.2024)



On February 9–10, Bahçeşehir University hosted the symposium "After the Earthquake," marking the first anniversary of the February 6 disaster. Experts from the fields of psychology and mental health came together to explore the emotional and psychological effects of large-scale trauma and to discuss the responsibilities of mental health professionals in post-disaster recovery. By focusing on collective resilience, coping mechanisms, and trauma-informed care, the event highlighted the essential role of mental health support in rebuilding communities and fostering long-term well-being after a crisis. Organized by the undergraduate and graduate psychology programs, the symposium created a meaningful space for dialogue, empathy, and professional growth within the Bahçeşehir University community.

BAU Bi'Soluk Student Club: Monthly Solidarity Activities with "Çorbada Tuzun Olsun" Association (2024–2025)



The BAU Bi'Soluk Student Club, in collaboration with the BAU Gastronomy Club and the "Çorbada Tuzun Olsun" Association, continues its regular monthly social responsibility activities throughout the 2024–2025 academic year. These volunteer-based efforts aim to support individuals facing poverty and homelessness, foster empathy, and strengthen community solidarity among students.

By promoting compassion, active citizenship, and inclusivity, Bahçeşehir University encourages its students to take an active role in addressing social inequalities. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 1: No Poverty by supporting vulnerable groups, and it also aligns with SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its emphasis on equitable participation, solidarity, and collaborative community action.

Human Rights Day Seminar - Addressing Inequalities and the Right to Work (18.12.2024)



Held on 18 December 2024, the seminar "Inequalities and the Right to Work" marked Human Rights Day by examining how economic and social systems perpetuate inequality. Av. Çağla Gül Bulut from the Istanbul Bar Association's Child Rights Center discussed mechanisms for protecting children's welfare, while Serhat Durup from FMV Işık Schools reflected on human dignity and labor rights within consumer-driven economies.

By emphasizing the right to work as a key instrument for breaking the cycle of poverty, the seminar promoted inclusive social policies and fair labor conditions as fundamental to human rights. Through this event, Bahçeşehir University reinforced its commitment to combating poverty and inequality, contributing to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

After the February 6 Earthquakes Conference: The Psychological and Social Impacts of

Disaster (27.11.2024)



Held on 27 November 2024 in collaboration with UNICEF and the Association for Trauma and Disaster Mental Health Studies (TARDE), this scientific conference at Bahçeşehir University examined the long-term psychological and social consequences of the February 6 earthquakes. The event presented findings from an extensive social impact study, emphasizing the outcomes of psychosocial support programs implemented over the past eighteen months and the ongoing need for mental health and social recovery interventions.

By addressing post-disaster poverty, social inequality, and community resilience, the conference underscored the importance of inclusive recovery and equitable access to support services for affected populations. Bringing together academics, humanitarian experts, and policymakers, the event demonstrated Bahçeşehir University's continued commitment to advancing social justice and supporting recovery efforts that reduce vulnerability and promote sustainable well-being in disaster-impacted regions, contributing to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program



Bahçeşehir University (BAU), in collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul, affiliated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and in partnership with Yapı Kredi Bank, continues to advance its mission of promoting equality and innovation through the "Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program." This initiative is designed to increase women's participation in the fields of technology and innovation, contributing to the creation of a more inclusive and diverse digital future.

The certification program provides free, high-quality training delivered by Bahçeşehir University's distinguished academic staff. Participants engage in comprehensive learning modules covering Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Technologies, Cybersecurity, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Industry 5.0. These training contents are developed with a focus on practical applicability and global standards, ensuring participants gain both theoretical knowledge and industry-relevant competencies.

In 2024, the program expanded its scope to reach a broader audience. It is now open to all women aged 15 and above, with no upper age limit, allowing greater inclusivity and ensuring that women of all ages can benefit from technological education and empowerment opportunities.

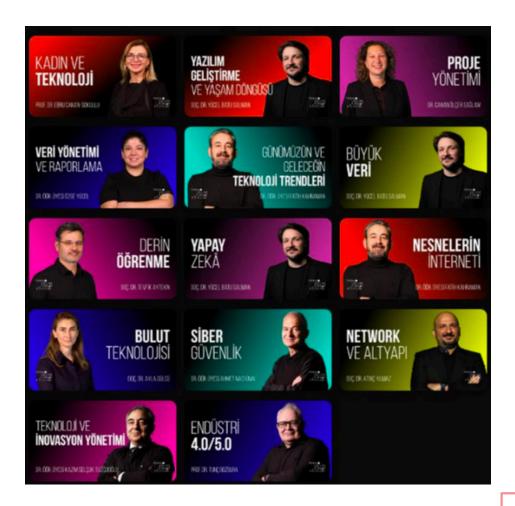
Participants who successfully complete the certification program and achieve a minimum score of 70 in the final evaluation will receive an E-Government Approved Certificate of Achievement, jointly accredited by UNITAR and Bahçeşehir University. Those who complete at least 75% of the coursework will be awarded a UNITAR-accredited Certificate of Participation.

The Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program is entirely free of charge and open to all women who wish to develop their skills and advance their careers in technology. Moreover, individuals of any gender residing in the "Hope Cities" established by Koç Holding after the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes are also eligible to participate, reflecting Bahçeşehir University's unwavering commitment to social responsibility, inclusivity, and equal access to education.

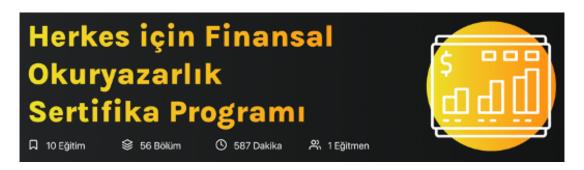
Launched in 2023, the program has already achieved remarkable impact: by the end of 2024, a total of 22,450 women have successfully completed the training and received certificates. The certification program will continue until the end of 2026, aiming to reach and empower even more women across Türkiye and beyond through education, innovation, and equal opportunity.

https://baugo.online/certificate-programs/teknolojide-firsat-esitligi

https://tto.bau.edu.tr/en/equal-opportunity-project-in-technology-has-started/



Financial Literacy for All Certificate Programme

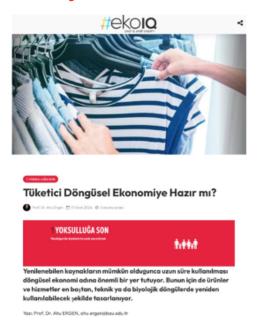


Developed under the BAUGO online education platform, the Financial Literacy for All Certificate Programme aims to equip participants with essential financial knowledge and skills to make informed economic decisions. Comprising 10 training modules, 56 sections, and a total duration of 587 minutes, the program provides comprehensive instruction in budgeting, saving, responsible spending, investment planning, and understanding credit systems.

By fostering financial awareness and promoting responsible resource management, the program empowers individuals to achieve economic stability and resilience against poverty-related risks. Accessible to all learners regardless of educational background, this initiative reflects Bahçeşehir University's dedication to building inclusive learning environments that enhance financial capability and social empowerment. The program contributes directly to SDG 1(No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by strengthening financial literacy as a tool for sustainable economic participation and long-term prosperity.

https://baugo.online/certificate-programs/herkes-icin-finansal-okuryazarlik-sertifika-programi

EKO IQ Column from the Green Business and Life Magazine: "Is the Consumer Ready for the Circular Economy?" By Prof. Dr. Ahu Ergen



The article "Is the Consumer Ready for the Circular Economy?" by Prof. Dr. Ahu Ergen explains the principles and consumer implications of the circular economy. The circular economy aims to maximize the use of products, materials, and resources while minimizing waste. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, it involves designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. Products and services are designed from the outset to be reusable within technical or biological cycles, reducing resource use, waste, and environmental damage. The article emphasizes that transitioning to a circular economy requires a mindset shift among consumers. Current economic systems encourage rapid consumption and frequent replacement of products. Consumers need awareness, incentives, and education to adopt circular behaviors, with tools such as sustainability curricula in schools and universities, public campaigns, and behavioral interventions. Key consumer practices include buying durable products, repairing rather than discarding, reducing waste, recycling, avoiding fast fashion, and using resources efficiently. Adopting these behaviors is essential for advancing the circular economy and achieving sustainable development.

Income-Based Inflation Report by Bahçeşehir University Financial Research and Application

Center (BFRC)



Prepared by the Bahçeşehir University Financial Research and Application Center (BFRC) in July 2024, the Income-Based Inflation Report presents a detailed analysis of how inflation is experienced differently across income levels in Türkiye. By integrating Household Consumption Expenditure Statistics (2005–2019, 2022–2023) with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data from TÜİK, the study establishes a new index—Income-Based Consumer Price Index (GB-TÜFE)—to reveal disparities in inflation perception and impact among various income groups.

Findings indicate that the lowest-income group allocates 36.6% of its spending to food, compared to 14.5% among the highest-income group, making food price increases far more burdensome for lower-income households. Similarly, price changes in transportation disproportionately affect higher-income groups, whose spending share in this category reaches 28.3%. The report highlights that surges in food prices exacerbate inequality and deepen poverty by eroding the purchasing power of low-income households.

By offering an evidence-based perspective on how inflation differently affects social segments, Bahçeşehir University contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between economic instability and poverty. The report calls for stronger policy measures—particularly in food pricing and income distribution—to reduce inequality and enhance economic resilience. This research aligns with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) through its focus on data-driven strategies for fairer and more inclusive economic policymaking.

https://bfrc.bau.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/BFRC-Gelir-Bazli-Enflasyon-Notu-1.pdf

Article by Prof. Dr. İbrahim Ünalmış – "Considering Food Prices in the Disinflation Process"



Hafta içerisinde enflasyon verileri açıklandı. Kasım ayında tüketici fiyatları %3.28 artarken yıllık artış %61.98 oldu. Beklentinin %3.8 olması nedeniyle açıklanan enflasyon beklentilerin altında kaldı. Aylık en yüksek artış %11.2 ile konutta yaşandı.

Bu artışın temel sebebi doğalgaz ödemelerinin normale dönmesi. TCMB tarafından yayımlanan enflasyon değerlendirme raporunda doğalgaz etkisinin ortadan kalkmasının manşet TÜFE üzerindeki etkisi 1 puan olarak açıklandı. Yönetilen ve yönlendirilen fiyatlar arasında yer alan alkollü içecekler ve tütün ürünlerinin fiyatları ise ay içerisinde sigaraya yapılan zam nedeniyle %9.2 olarak gerçekleşti ve en çok artan ürün fiyatları sıralamasında ikinci sıraya yerleşti.

Published in Dünya Newspaper on 8 December 2023, the article written by Prof. Dr. İbrahim Ünalmış, a faculty member of Bahçeşehir University, offers an in-depth analysis of Türkiye's current inflation dynamics, emphasizing the structural issue of food price increases. Evaluating the November 2023 inflation data, Prof. Ünalmış noted that while consumer prices rose by 3.28% monthly and 61.98% annually, the long-standing problem of food inflation continues to erode purchasing power, particularly among low-income households.

Highlighting that food and non-alcoholic beverage prices have increased 27-fold since 2003, the article argues that food inflation has become a structural obstacle to equitable growth and poverty reduction. Prof. Ünalmış underlined the importance of prioritizing food price stability within the national disinflation strategy, calling for stronger institutional coordination and the activation of mechanisms such as the Food and Agricultural Products Monitoring Committee. By addressing food price volatility and its disproportionate impact on lower-income groups, Bahçeşehir University's faculty research contributes to a more inclusive understanding of economic stability and poverty alleviation.

This academic contribution supports SDG 1 (No Poverty) by identifying the structural drivers of economic hardship, as well as SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) through its focus on fair food systems and balanced income distribution.

https://www.dunya.com/kose-yazisi/dezenflasyon-surecinde-gida-fiyatlarini-dusunmek/713070

CIFAL Istanbul Team's Visit to the Earthquake Zone in Malatya (13-15.12.2024)



Held between 13–15 December 2024, the CIFAL Istanbul team organized an educational program in Battalgazi, Malatya, titled "Heroes of Nature: Raising Awareness on Sustainability." The event brought together children and families affected by the February 6 earthquakes, providing an opportunity for learning, solidarity, and environmental awareness. Through interactive sessions, participants explored the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on topics such as clean water, renewable energy, sustainable cities, and climate action.

By supporting disaster-affected communities through education and engagement, this initiative addressed both environmental and socioeconomic resilience. The program helped empower local residents—particularly children—to rebuild their lives with sustainable practices and renewed confidence. Through its emphasis on recovery, inclusion, and sustainability, this initiative contributed to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



National Policy Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Technology in Hazelnut Farming (December 2024)



Held in Giresun under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Giresun Governorship, the National Policy Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Technology in Hazelnut Farming brought together a wide network of partners, including Bahçeşehir University (BAU), Giresun University, the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA), and several public, academic, and private sector stakeholders. The forum convened government officials, researchers, and industry leaders to develop a national roadmap for integrating Al and digital technologies into Türkiye's agricultural production systems—particularly the hazelnut sector, a cornerstone of the national economy. Bahçeşehir University contributed through its expertise in Al applications, sustainable food systems, and policy innovation, supporting the creation of data-driven strategies and evidenceframeworks that enhance based policy agricultural efficiency and resilience.

By fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and linking national and local institutions, the initiative advanced Türkiye's digital transformation in agriculture, directly contributing to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through its focus on inclusive, climatesmart, and innovation-driven agricultural development.





